

30 NOV 1950

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The Honorable F. J. Lawton  
Director  
Bureau of the Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lawton:

Thank you for your letter of 24 November extending to this Agency an opportunity to participate in discussions regarding restrictions on the publication of statistics by Government agencies which might endanger the national security.

I am happy to designate Mr. Theodore Babbitt, Assistant Director for Research and Reports, as my representative on this committee. Mr. Babbitt is being notified of his appointment, and he will get in touch with Mr. Rice for further information in this connection.

It is my understanding that the meeting originally scheduled for 1 December has been changed to 4 December at 10:00 AM in Room 430 of the Executive Office Building.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

WALTER D. SMITH  
Director

cc: Mr. Theodore Babbitt (w/cy basic and President's ltr) ✓

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E:mc (28 Nov 50)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

NOV 24 1950

My dear General Smith:

In his letter to me dated November 17, 1950, copy attached, regarding restrictions on the publication of statistics by agencies of the Government, the President states: "You may wish...to designate to advise you a committee composed of representatives of those agencies which you deem principally concerned with the national security."

I consider it essential that the Central Intelligence Agency be represented on such a committee, and should therefore like to request that you designate a member of your staff to represent your Agency. Similar requests have been sent to the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of State. I am asking Mr. Stuart A. Rice, Assistant Director in charge of Statistical Standards, to convene the committee, and it is hoped that the first meeting may be held on December 1, 1950 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 430 of the Executive Office Building. Will you kindly inform me of your designee at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) F. J. Lawton

Director

Attachment

Lt. General Walter B. Smith

Director, Central Intelligence Agency

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1950

My dear Mr. Lawton:

The international situation at this time requires that we be prepared once more to impose such restrictions on the publication and dissemination of statistical information by agencies of the government as may be necessary in the interests of national security. During World War II, these controls were exercised by the Bureau of the Budget in accordance with Executive Order 9103, signed on March 18, 1942, which ordered the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to take responsibility for controlling the publication by government agencies of statistical information which would aid and comfort the enemy. The data thereby restricted from publication were nevertheless to be made available to authorized users. This order was revoked by Executive Order 9622, September 20, 1945.

Necessary as control over publication may be, we must also remember that it is in the national interest to keep such restrictions to a minimum. Statistical information needed by the Government and its citizens should be made available to the general public to the fullest extent compatible with national security. It is also important that the restrictions imposed be uniform and consistent in order to be effective. Statistical series published by different agencies, each of which might be harmless in itself, might be combined to produce information harmful to the national security. Centralization of this control in one agency is therefore essential.

This responsibility belongs appropriately in the Bureau of the Budget in accordance with its existing responsibilities for the improvement, development and coordination of Federal statistical services. It is therefore my wish that until further notice you maintain a continuous surveillance of the publication of statistical information by executive agencies of the Federal Government, and advise them in any instance whether or not such publication would be compatible with national security. If, in your opinion, the publication of the information would endanger the national security, it is to be withheld. I am confident that each agency will abide by your regulations and determinations in this matter.

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You are also requested to take steps, as in your administration of Executive Order 9103, to insure that statistical information ordinarily released to the public, but withheld from general publication because of security considerations, will be released to authorized users, in such manner as you may prescribe. Decisions on whether such release can be made must not be contrary to law or the regulations of the agencies possessing the data.

In the tasks outlined in this letter, you will of course, as in the past, give due consideration to the interests of the agencies, organizations, or individuals principally concerned with the compilation or use of statistical information. You may wish also to designate to advise you a committee composed of representatives of those agencies which you deem principally concerned with the national security.

Sincerely yours,



Honorable Frederick J. Lawton  
Director  
Bureau of the Budget  
Washington 25, D. C.